



Historically Speaking

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Greek Pottery

Greek pottery has four main types: Geometric, Corinthian, Athenian Black-figure, and Athenian red-figure pottery. Pottery vessels were made for everyday use such as the two-handled amphora for storage, the single-stem kylix cup for drinking wine, and the three-handled hydra for holding water. Greek pottery was often decorated with geometric designs or images from Greek mythology.

Right: A detail of a 7th century BCE amphora displaying the common design motifs of the Geometric style of Greek pottery. The style was in use from 900 to 600 BCE in the Greek world and involved decorating vessels with simple linear motifs and stylised figures. From ancient Thera, Santorini.

(Archaeological Museum, Thera).



Left: A hydria was an ancient Greek vessel in clay or bronze used to carry water. Two horizontal handles were used to carry the vessel and one vertical handle to pour. This example is from Attica, c. 500 BCE and the main body depicts two sirens with grapes and vine leaves.

(British Museum, London).Museum, Trustees of the British. "Hydria." World History Encyclopedia. World History Encyclopedia, 23 Apr 2013. Web. 12 Mar 2025.

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What's happening?

I continue to make progress on Amon with some new twists to the story. I am able to include some fascinating historical characters that I hadn't been anticipating. My choice of time for this book is very fortunate. Several YouTube videos have added greatly to the research for this book.

I am also making reasonable progress with Ecstasy Through Agony; the Writers' Odyssey, although I have been waiting for approval to use some quotes in it. I keep asking for an answer, but so far only one response requesting the specific quotes. I have sent that and I wait.



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This Corinthian black-figure pyxis is decorated with ibexes and felines. This type of vessel was used as a container for cosmetics or jewellery.



The decorative subjects, the elongation of the body of the animals and the schematisation of the filling motifs are all distinctive characteristics of the Corinthian pottery production in the first quarter of the 6th century BCE. Found in a Corinthian workshop. Middle Corinthian Period (590-565 BCE). (Hellenic Museum, Melbourne, Victoria)



Left: Attic black-figure vase showing Theseus killing the Minotaur of the Cretan labyrinth. A feminine figure looks on from the right, possibly Ariadne. Late 6th to early 5th century BCE. Archaeological Museum, Milan.

The black-figure technique was replaced by the red-figure technique (red figures created by painting their outline with a black slip background) around 530 BCE which would endure for the next 130 years or so. The two styles were parallel for some time and there are even 'bilingual' examples of vases with both styles but the red-figure, with its advantage of the brush over the graver, could attempt to more realistically portray the human figure and eventually it became the favoured style of Greek pottery decoration. Perhaps influenced by contemporary wall painting techniques, anatomical detail, diverse facial expressions, greater detail in clothing (especially of folds, following the new fashion of the lighter chiton dress which also fascinated contemporary sculptors), greater attempts at portraying perspective, the overlapping of figures, and the depiction of everyday life such as education and sporting scenes are all characteristic of this style.



attic-red-figure-dinos

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